

# BOSTON REVIEW

2024 ANNUAL REPORT

A POLITICAL AND LITERARY FORUM  
INDEPENDENT AND NONPROFIT SINCE 1975

# FROM THE EDITORS-IN-CHIEF

As we head toward a huge milestone for *Boston Review*—2025 is our fiftieth anniversary—a catastrophic year is coming to close. We have thought hard about what the times call for and our role as an independent and nonprofit magazine of ideas.

In the face of unspeakable violence, political upheaval, and climate disaster, we provided the engaged analysis that has always been our trademark. After October 7, our deep well of contributors helped us to deliver essential historical context and searching pieces on genocide, the changing global order, and student protest. Barnett Rubin’s “False Messiahs” was widely recognized as the definitive essay on the question of Zionism and colonialism. On the U.S. presidential election, we were among the first to sound the alarm on Project 2025. We offered a deep dive into the history of rural voters and political expectations and shed light on Kamala Harris’s foreign policy positions well before she spoke publicly about them.

As always, we kept a focus on ways forward. We brought together scholars and activists to discuss paths to peace in the Middle East, and we published issues on the climate crisis, the path to more humane AI, and strategies for strengthening American democracy.

With a very limited budget and a small but devoted staff, we’ve earned the trust of millions of readers, who extend *BR*’s reach and impact when they teach our forums and essays, read them in study groups, and write about them in the mainstream media. But we have no single funder, and our future is never guaranteed. We rely on grants, large gifts, and revenue from our membership program and issue sales. That means we need your help. Please give generously and consider a bequest to *Boston Review*. And please share us with your friends, family, and colleagues—all the serious readers you know—to help ensure we will continue to publish for fifty more years.

Let’s hope together that 2025 brings us reason to celebrate.

Sincerely,



Deborah Chasman



Joshua Cohen

*Publisher & Coeditor-in-Chief*

Deborah Chasman

*Coeditor-in-Chief*

Joshua Cohen

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Kim Malone Scott

Brandon M. Terry

Michael Voss

# WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING

“Some of the most penetrating and challenging cultural commentary, political discussion, and social analysis to be found anywhere in the United States. It is a must-read.”

**POLITICS AND PROSE BOOKSTORE**

“*Boston Review* is what so many journals and magazines on the left claim to be but only partly achieve: literary yet political, demanding yet accessible, cosmopolitan yet grounded in the American scenes, on top of new books that matter but playing it broad and fair.”

**DAVID WALDSTREICHER**

“There are not many publications that can match *Boston Review’s* commitment to publishing Black thinkers, giving space to debates about Black liberation from across the political spectrum, or insisting on the significance of race in broader questions of justice, democracy, and citizenship.”

**BRANDON M. TERRY**

“It is not corporate, it is not trying to be hip, and it is not afraid of hard and hidden truths. When it comes to publishing fresh and generative ideas, *Boston Review* has no peer.”

**ROBIN D. G. KELLEY** Gary B. Nash Professor of History, UCLA

“*Boston Review* plays a critically important role in getting ideas out in the world that can have a real impact in confronting the monumental challenges we face today.”

**NOAM CHOMSKY & ROBERT POLLIN**

“Publishing diverse voices that embrace debate and encourage impatience with convention, *Boston Review* is an indispensable pillar of the public sphere.”

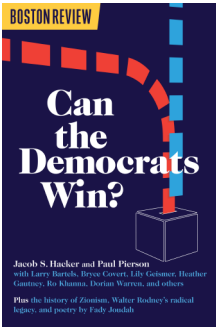
**ALONDRA NELSON**

“In our swamp of media sensationalism and group-speak, *Boston Review* stands out as a bold voice for reason and argument, one of the very, very few places that offer intelligence, integrity, and variety.”

**MARTHA NUSSBAUM**



# THIS YEAR'S ISSUES

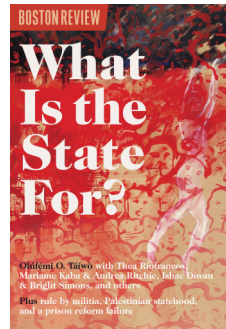


## CAN THE DEMOCRATS WIN?

For decades, center-left parties in the West have been moving right on economic issues. Until recently, the U.S. Democratic Party has been no exception, so what explains their “U-turn” on economics? And what does this transformation mean for the future of the party—and a nation facing down democratic crisis?

## WHAT IS THE STATE FOR?

Can the nation-state serve social justice? What would a just state look like, and how can we get there? This issue identifies fossil capital as the principal obstacle to a more just world and explores the strategies, possibilities, and limitations of efforts to address the climate crisis and transform the state in the image of justice.



## WE NEED MORE PARTIES

American democracy is broken, but partisanship alone is not to blame. This issue places our two-party system at the center of the American democratic crisis and argues for more and better political parties through electoral reform and fusion voting.



## AI FUTURES

Generative AI tools, released by a handful of rich tech companies, are remaking the economy, society, and human life as we know it. Must their vision be our common destiny? This issue takes a hard look at Silicon Valley's grip on our technological imagination, asking what a more utopian vision of technology's role in our lives could look like—and how we can get there.

# RECENT FEATURES

- "FALSE MESSIAHS"

Barnett R. Rubin on Zionism's entanglement with colonialism

- "THE SILENCING OF FRED DUBE"

Abena Asare details the saga of a professor who dared to criticize Israel

- "CAN WE IMAGINE A WORLD WITHOUT WORK?"

Rachel Fraser on reproductive labor in a post-work society

- "THE QUESTION OF PALESTINIAN STATEHOOD"

Leila Farsakh on the life and death of a two-state solution

- "THE EXTORTIONIST'S DOCTRINE"

Elaine Scarry unpacks the fatal flaws of nuclear deterrence

- "FOR A SOLIDARITY STATE"

Leah Hunt-Hendrix and Astra Taylor on a state that cares for the common good

- "PRISON REFORM'S SHELL GAME"

Bonnie Tenneriello on the changing same of prison reform

- "THE POLITICS OF PRICE"

Kevin P. Donovan reveals the hidden politics behind accounting tools

- "THE SUMMERS OF THEORY"

Peter Gordon on the golden years of French theory

- "INSIDE PROJECT 2025"

James Goodwin details the right's plans for a second Trump administration

- "LETTER TO COLUMBIA PRESIDENT MINOUCHE SHAFIK"

Robin D. G. Kelley on universities' repression of student protest

- "WHO'S TO BLAME FOR WHITE POVERTY?"

Elizabeth Catte on rage and reaction in Appalachia

- "THE HARRIS DOCTRINE"

Michael Brenes asks what a Kamala Harris foreign policy might look like

- "SHOCKWAVES IN THE GLOBAL ORDER"

Helena Cobban tracks the shifting balance of power after October 7

# BOSTON REVIEW IN THE NEWS

- *Boston Review's* work this year has been shared widely, including in the *New York Times*, *The Guardian*, and *The New Yorker*.
- The Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health released a special three-part podcast on racial bias in pulse oximeters featuring Amy Moran-Thomas's August 2020 *BR* essay.
- Contributor Daron Acemoglu won the 2024 Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel.
- Contributing editor Becca Rothfeld won the 2024 Nona Balakian Citation for Excellence in Reviewing from the National Book Critics Circle.
- Contributors Ruha Benjamin, Jericho Brown, Juan Felipe Herrera, and Dorothy Roberts were selected as 2024 MacArthur Fellows.
- Contributor Fady Joudah received the Jackson Poetry Prize from *Poets & Writers* and was a finalist for the 2024 National Book Award in Poetry.
- Three of four 2024 Marguerite Casey Foundation Freedom Scholars are *BR* contributors: Natalie Diaz, Daniel Martinez HoSang, and Sabeel Rahman.

## 2024 EVENTS

### RECLAIMING FREEDOM ISSUE LAUNCH

Aziz Rana with Brandon M. Terry

### WORKING-CLASS DEMOCRACY AND THE QUESTION OF PALESTINE

Robin D. G. Kelley

### CLIMATE, STATE, AND UTOPIA

Olúfẹ̀mi O. Táíwò and Thea Riofrancos

### THE NEW BLUE DIVIDE

Jacob S. Hacker and Paul Pierson  
with Lily Geismer

### A YEAR OF WAR: PATHS TO A POLITICAL SETTLEMENT IN ISRAEL AND PALESTINE

Helena Cobban, Alon-Lee Green,  
Leila Farsakh, Shlomo Sand, and  
Raja Shehadeh, moderated by Barnett  
Rubin



# CONTRIBUTORS FROM *BR'S* FIRST 50 YEARS:

DARON ACEMOGLU

SADIQ AL-AZM

KWAME ANTHONY APPIAH

JOHN ASHBERY

MARGARET ATWOOD

WILLIAM J. BARBER II

JOE BIDEN

ELIZABETH BISHOP

JOSEPH BRODSKY

JUDITH BUTLER

ITALO CALVINO

DAVID CHALMERS

DON MEE CHOI

NOAM CHOMSKY

KIMBERLÉ CRENSHAW

EDWIDGE DANTICAT

ANGUS DEATON

NATALIE DIAZ

SAMUEL R. DELANY

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ARUNDHATI ROY

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SONIA SANCHEZ

MICHAEL SANDEL

BERNIE SANDERS

ELAINE SCARRY

SARAH SCHULMAN

AMARTYA SEN

EVIE SHOCKLEY

SUSAN SONTAG

ASTRA TAYLOR

KEEANGA-YAMAHTTA TAYLOR

PHILIPPE VAN PARIJS

OCEAN VUONG

ELIZABETH WARREN

CORNEL WEST

HOWARD ZINN

# FROM THE MARKETING TEAM

Dear Reader,

Thank you for joining us during a year of community growth at *Boston Review*. In 2024, we have greatly expanded our event programming beyond our virtual series, with in-person issue launches and book talks with our authors in Cambridge. We met readers and industry peers at book festivals in Boston, and, for the first time, in Brooklyn. Through our continued partnership with Haymarket Books, we also continue to expand our presence in bookstores across the country.

This spring, we also completed an ambitious project for our existing members: digitizing our entire archive. Hundreds of *Boston Review* issues are now online for the first time, starting with our very first 1975 issue featuring Adrienne Rich and Susan Sontag. It's never been a better time to be a *Boston Review* member, and there's never been more *Boston Review* to read.

In 2025, our fiftieth year, we will continue providing our readers with serious, thoughtful writing and important debates about the most pressing issues of our time. We are also planning exciting new projects—archival spotlights, special event programming, and new designs—but we can't do it without you.

When you make a donation, you help subsidize access for all readers everywhere, and will help us keep publishing for a half century more.

Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J. Parmley', with a stylized, cursive script.

Jasmine Parmley  
Associate Publisher

# DIGITAL ARCHIVE ACCESS FOR MEMBERS

In preparation for our 50th anniversary in 2025, we have digitized our entire archive. Members now have access to hundreds of *BR* issues, dating back to our founding in 1975. Visit [bostonreview.net/memberships](https://bostonreview.net/memberships)



## BOSTON REVIEW FELLOWSHIP ALUMNI

**KELTON ELLIS** has joined the editorial staff at the *New Yorker*.

**NIA T. EVANS** was a 2023–2024 *Mother Jones* investigative fellow and works as a freelance writer, most recently for *New York* magazine.

**NATE FILE** is the Communities & Engagement Reporter at the *Philadelphia Inquirer*.

# SELECTED AWARDS

NUMEROUS PIECES HAVE BEEN CITED AS NOTABLE ESSAYS

IN *THE BEST AMERICAN ESSAYS*, INCLUDING:

“Unmaking Asian Exceptionalism”  
by Gaiutra Bahadur (2023)

“The Logic of Effective Altruism”  
by Peter Singer (2016)

“What Makes Laws Unjust”  
by Randall Kennedy (2022)

“The Desire to Know”  
by Steven Shapin (2016)

“Why I Provide Abortions”  
by Christine Henneberg (2021)

“Rethinking Privacy”  
by William H. Simon (2015)

“The Millions”  
by Deborah Taffa (2021)

“Mortal Risks”  
by Oded Na’aman (2015)

“Walt Whitman’s Boys”  
by Jeremy Lybarger (2020)

“War Is Betrayal”  
by Chris Hedges (2013)

“Guns in the Family”  
by Walter Johnson (2019)

“Apocalypse: What Disasters Reveal”  
by Junot Díaz (2012)

## *ON ANGER* (WINTER 2020 ISSUE)

SELECTED BY THE *NEW YORKER* AS ONE OF THE BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR

- Spring 2024 issue *What Is the State For?* was selected for the Marguerite Casey Foundation’s book club
- Fall 2022 issue *Imagining Global Futures* was named a book of the month by *International Affairs*
- Essay “Pleasure and Justice” by Becca Rothfeld was a finalist for *Washington Monthly*’s Kukula Award for Nonfiction Writing (2022)
- *Boston Review* receives the UTNE Independent Press Award for Best Writing (2010)
- Essay “A Death in Texas” by Tom Barry is named a finalist for the American Society of Magazine Editors (ASME) National Magazine Award for Public Interest (2010)

# FROM THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD

Dear Reader,

I first came across *Boston Review* nearly twenty years ago at a time when I had become disenchanted with the American media's commercialism and lack of substance.

After reading an essay by legal scholar Larry Kramer—"We the People: Who Has the Last Word on the Constitution?"—I was so impressed by the magazine's content, intellectual rigor, and accessibility that I immediately subscribed. I have been a devotee ever since, serving as chair of *Boston Review's* board for more than ten years.

Throughout my time as a reader and supporter, I have come to appreciate *Boston Review* as a rare publication: a model of robust and intellectually honest debate about pressing public issues. As the publication reaches its fiftieth anniversary, I only grow more impassioned about its commitment to delivering the tools citizens need to be fully engaged with democratic life and to providing content for free. Democracy requires it.

*Boston Review* continues to treat its readers as partners in a discussion, not as purchasers of a product. The role of its board is to support and expand that mission—to get its content in front of an ever-growing audience of engaged citizens. I hope you will join us as citizens, readers, subscribers, and supporters.

Sincerely,



Derek Schrier



"I love *Boston Review* for being unfailingly smart, perceptive, and unexpected."

**ELIZABETH BRUENIG** staff writer, *The Atlantic*

# BOSTON REVIEW BY THE NUMBERS

	2023	2024
	(ACTUAL)	(BUDGET)
<b>PROGRAM REVENUE</b>		
Annual Fund/Membership	\$ 102,779	\$ 130,000
Retail Sales	16,074	15,000
<hr/>		
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>118,853</b>	<b>145,000</b>
<b>SUPPORT</b>		
Individual Gifts (1k and over)	20,000	25,000
Board Contributions	252,000	250,000
Grants	450,000	350,000
Black Voices Fellowship Grants	150,205	
<hr/>		
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>872,205</b>	<b>625,000</b>
<hr/>		
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>991,058</b>	<b>770,000</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Design and Production	61,923	74,450
Fellowship and Internship Program	122,597	87,716
Editorial	393,181	401,640
Administrative	204,754	220,555
Development	60,322	49,189
Marketing	88,424	7,000
Circulation	16,102	5,000
<hr/>		
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>947,303</b>	<b>845,550</b>
Net Operating Income	43,755	(75,550)
Interest	4,358	
<hr/>		
<b>NET INCOME</b>	<b>\$ 48,113</b>	<b>\$ (75,550)</b>

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